

What is claimed is:

1. An image information reading apparatus comprising:  
a support table for placing thereon a container which  
houses a stimuable phosphor sheet with radiation image  
information recorded therein, with a lid openably and  
closably mounted on the container;

displaceable stimulating light applying means for  
applying stimulating light to the stimuable phosphor sheet  
which is exposed when said lid is opened;

displaceable light collecting means for collecting  
light which is emitted from said stimuable phosphor sheet  
upon exposure to said stimulating light; and

a photoelectric transducer mechanism for converting the  
collected light to an electric signal;

the arrangement being such that while said stimulating  
light applying means is facing and being displaced with  
respect to said stimuable phosphor sheet housed in said  
container, said stimulating light applying means applies  
said stimulating light to said stimuable phosphor sheet,  
and while said light collecting means is being displaced  
with respect to said stimuable phosphor sheet, said light  
collecting means collects light emitted from said stimuable  
phosphor sheet and reads radiation image information from  
the collected light.

2. An image information reading apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein said stimulating light applying means and said light collecting means are coupled to each other for displacement in unison with each other.

5           3. An image information reading apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

10           a displacing mechanism for displacing said stimulating light applying means and said light collecting means, said displacing mechanism comprising a ball screw operatively connected to said stimulating light applying means and said light collecting means and a motor for rotating said ball screw about its own axis.

15           4. An image information reading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

          a lifting and lowering mechanism for lifting and lowering said support table.

20           5. An image information reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said lifting and lowering mechanism comprises a plurality of support shafts rotatably mounted on a base and operatively connected to said support table and a plurality of motors for rotating said support shafts respectively about their own axes to lift and lower said support table.

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          6. An image information reading apparatus according to

claim 5, wherein said motors have respective rotatable shafts with respective worms fitted thereover, said support shafts supporting respective worm gears fitted thereover and held in mesh with said respective worms, whereby said support shafts can be rotated about their own axes by said worms and said worm gears when said motors are energized.

7. An image information reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said stimulating light applying means and said light collecting means are coupled to each other for displacement in unison with each other.

8. An image information reading apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a displacing mechanism for displacing said stimulating light applying means and said light collecting means, said displacing mechanism comprising a ball screw operatively connected to said stimulating light applying means and said light collecting means and a motor for rotating said ball screw about its own axis.

9. An image information reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said container comprises a container casing with said lid being openably and closably mounted thereon, said lid being removably mounted on said container casing.

10. An image information reading apparatus according to

claim 9, wherein said container casing has a groove defined therein, said lid having a side edge slidably fitted in said groove.

5            11. An image information reading apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said lid has a tab projecting from a side edge thereof.